Part Three

THE SUNDAY JOURNAL.

Pages 17 to 24

PRICE FIVE CENTS. INDIANAPOLIS, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 7, 1901. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THEATER OPINION.

The Second Night of a New Play Is the Test.

New York Evening Post.

Some time ago Miss Ellen Terry was credited with the remark that there was little significance in the reception accorded to a new play by a first-night audience. The probable fate of the piece, she added, was indicated much more clearly by the conduct of the spectators at the second performance. This is undoubtedly true. As a matter of fact, a "first-night" celebration nowadays is nothing but the culmination of the whole managerial scheme of preliminary advertisement. The theater is filled with the friends of the manager, the author, and the principal players—bound to applaud, if they can, or to be silent if that is impossible—while organized bands of ushers and "dead-heads" stand ready to swell the faintest murmurs of approval into thunderous plaudits, or to convert the quiet of indifference or boredom into an uproar of mock enthusiasm. In most cases the greater part of the applause is just as much made to order as the floral tributes which used to be passed over the footlight, before the humbug of the proceeding became so glaring as to make it useless. The flowers, the curtain-calls, and the prolonged racket are all so many devices, not so much for the beguilement of those persons who are present as for the delusion of the general public, which is expected to hear of them through the press and other channels. In London this method of manufacturing public opinion seems to be even more highly developed than it is in New York. It appears that some of the managers in that city not only have a chosen body of first-nighters, whom they invite by circular, but take special precautions to find out whether any of them are likely to be absent, so that their places may be filled by substitutes of assured friendliness. In this way the mere possibility of any hostile demonstration, such as a disturbing hiss, a bold "boo" or irreverent laughter is averted. No wonder that the cable brings to us such unvarying records of brilliant theatrical successes. The worst of it is that this policy, which is one of the latest products of commercialism in the theater, is often successful to a most astonishing degree.

Sized Up.

Kansas City Journal.

Chicago is a great, big, dirty, corrupt city, and from the result of yesterday's voting she intends to remain so.

Quite So.

Baltimore American.

It is evident that the Russian Constitution follows the flag.

FOR BENEFIT OF FARMERS

LINE OF USEFUL EXPERIMENTS BEGUN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

To Double Wheat Crop, Produce Hardy Oranges and Increase Quantity of Starch in Potatoes.

Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—Everyone who eats will be interested in some new and clever wizardry which the enterprising scientists at the government's experiment stations have recently commenced.

That plants must henceforth work overtime to keep up with the restless pace of this twentieth century race is now a foregone conclusion. The vegetable creature which suspends activity at night—as nature intended—will soon be branded as a useless sluggard, will ultimately fall into extinction. That which lies dormant in winter and awaits the warm breath of spring before sprouting must cease its lazy habit of hibernation. Sweet fruits of the tropics, hitherto stubbornly refusing to flourish in cooler climates, must put on thicker apparel. Little fruits at which greedy man smacks his lips must grow bigger. All thorns and noisomes pines which nature gave as a protection to our sweet fruits and flowers must be shaken off.

One of these wizards told me seriously that the farmer of the future will bridge over his nights and his winters; that there will be no seasons for our needed plant life.

That plants can be forced to do night work is, indeed, being proven at several of the experiment stations. Nature gave the night to plants—as to animals—as a period of sleep. Light, as well as air, soil and water, is essential to plant growth. It was discovered a few years ago that the illumination of gardens at night by electric light will keep plants awake and growing, and it seems as though they are deceived into believing that the day continues. Plants thus treated grow much faster and develop much earlier than others allowed their "every night off." The government is now commencing a series of experiments to learn whether Welsbach gas lamps cannot also be used as substitutes for the sun. It is also growing plants in soil actually fertilized by electricity, and learning that such treatment also hastens plant growth. What with artificial suns keeping plants awake all night and hurrying them from overhead, and what with underground wires hurrying their roots from beneath, we may awaken some fine morning to discover that these improvers on nature have learned to grow magic bean stalks such as used by the valiant slaughterer of giants whom we read about in our nursery days.

BRIDGING WINTER OVER.

That the farmer of the future can bridge winter over is proven by experiments with vegetables planted in winter in experimental gardens, between whose rows are tunnels filled with steam supplied by a boiler on the premises. Vegetables have thus been actually grown out of season. This idea of warming Mother Earth by steam-pipes is, of course, new. For early asparagus especially it has begun to be applied with practical success. The steam is turned on for five minutes at a time twice in three days, when it heats the soil to a temperature of sixty degrees.

Breeding oranges which will grow north is another enterprise of these scientists. They have found a little orange, one and a half inches in diameter, grown successfully as far north as Philadelphia. It is very hardy and can live through a frost. It, however, is unfit for food when raw, although valuable for preserving. This fruit has been married to some large oranges of the Florida variety. The first resulting generation of descendants will be due this season. The intention is to combine the interior quality and sweetness of the Florida family with the thick, protecting skin of the Philadelphia species. It is hoped to thus obtain in a few years an offspring which will grow as far north as Charleston, S. C., all along the gulf coast and along the Pacific in northern California. It was prophesied to me that oranges as large, juicy and sweet as the California variety will some day be growing in our Central Atlantic States. A number of crosses are likewise being made between oranges and grape fruit, to obtain a large, juicy offspring, which will combine the sweetness and flavor of the former with the size and medicinal virtues of the latter.

FEATS OF TRANSFORMATION.

Breeding pineapple plants without stickers is another feat worthy of mention. Pickers of pineapples have long found their vocation one of difficulty, not to say pain, because of the sharp teeth lining the edges of the outspreading leaves. Somewhere in the world had been discovered a plant which, although bearing poor pineapples, has smooth leaves without saw edges. This has been married with the more abundant but less convenient species. The offspring, exhibited to me the other day, has the smooth leaves of the one and is expected to produce the superior fruit of the other parent.

A doubling of the starch contents of potatoes is expected to result from an elaborate series of experiments arranged for. The growing of potatoes especially for the starch industry will soon be as successful here as in Germany. German potatoes bred for this enterprise are sold at prices proportionate to the amount of starch which they contain. Plants known to have produced the greatest percentages of starch are to be selected for the parents of the new stock to be bred. One parent will probably be the starch potato known as "magnum bonum," which yields 16 per cent. of starch. Combining it with another as rich, or even richer, in starch, it is expected that the offspring will yield 26 per cent.

The growing of brown cotton, such as need not be sent to the dyer before being made into brown cloth, is another industry to result from these experiments. From Peru the experimenters have obtained seeds of what may be termed the black sheep of the cotton family. The fluff is of a very dark brown. The plant cannot be grown now in our cool climate, but after its intermarriage with several species of our white cotton it is expected that the offspring, combining the color of the Peruvian family with the hardiness of the American, will become a commercial success. Off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia is raised what is known as "sea island cotton." This is so fine that it can be successfully used for silk adulteration. It is being crossed with the ordinary upland cotton. The resulting species, exhibited to me yesterday, is a cotton longer and more silky than the coarse upland stock, but retaining the strength and firmness of the latter. An Egyptian father and an upland mother have produced an offspring far greater than either parent in size.

OUR WHEAT CROP TO BE DOUBLED.

I was told by one of these specialists that a century hence an acre of wheat will furnish us twice as much flour as it does to-day. By such processes as I have described our wheat will be increased in size and number of both heads and grains. There will be three times as much of the valuable gluten in each grain as there is now. This increase of gluten will crowd out nearly all of the starch now produced by wheat. To bread makers our wheat fields will furnish little else than gluten—the constituent of flour which contains its nitrogen. The bread maker will mix his gluten flour, obtained from wheat alone, with his starch flour obtained from corn or potatoes.

American corn is being much enlarged both in grain and ear by being crossed with some giant corn from Peru, recently brought to the Department of Agriculture by the Peruvian minister. The grains are twice as large as those of ordinary corn. There are several species, some unusually starchy, others containing a large proportion of sugar. It is believed by some of these experimenters that we will some day grow corn in three species—one for its starch, one for its glucose and one for its gluten flour alone. It is believed that the gluten in corn can be so increased that the grain will eventually be as nutritious as wheat is to-day and will make as good light bread. It is hoped to propagate a corn more tapering and longer in the grain than ours and thus to obtain more grains on each cob.

This artificial intermarrying of plants—a process which the scientists term "hybridization"—is expected to quadruple many of our fruits and vegetables in size. Our native persimmon, for instance, will be crossed with the giant Japanese species. The result is expected to be a large seedless persimmon, as great in size as a good-sized pear, and fit for drying and preserving like the fig. Our native persimmon has long been neglected. It contains less water and is richer in valuable food constituents than our common cultivated fruits, being the sweetest of all. A seedless variety, free from the astringent flavor of the wild persimmon, as large as the Japanese giants and ripening before frost, is being striven for at several of the experiment stations. When perfected it will be one of the most valuable fruits cultivated. The persimmon is the staple fruit of Japan. Japanese plums and pears are being experimented with. The pear is very hardy and proof against blight—a disease very fatal to American pears.

We will probably have our own bamboo forests before very long. The government has imported from Japan a quantity of bamboo seeds for distribution among the experiment stations. Bamboo will thrive in many of our Southern States, and will be valuable for light fences, staging poles, rafters, eave troughs, etc. In rich, moist soil and a warm climate it frequently grows at the rate of sixty feet a year. A portion of the plant is considered a great table luxury in Japan.

Instead of employing gum camphor to keep out the moths we will probably be making camphor chests or camphor closets from camphor wood grown here in our own country at some early day. Camphor trees being imported from the Orient for replanting here will grow to be large and ornamental and will flourish in the Gulf States.

JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS, Jr.

FUNSTON'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Earlier Attempts to Capture Officers of Hostile Forces.

New York Sun.

General Funston's achievement in capturing Aguinaldo recalls earlier attempts made by officers of other armies to make prisoners of the leaders of hostile forces. The first attempt at seizing a general was never carried out; it involved too many persons, and the plotters engaged in it worked from the inside, not from without, as Funston did, and their plans were overheard. This was the attempt in June, 1777, to seize Washington in New York; the plan was changed later to an attempt to poison him. The plans of the conspirators were overheard by a woman, who disclosed them to the American authorities, and as a result the men implicated were captured and punished, one of them, Private Thomas Hickey, of Washington's bodyguard, being hanged.

After Arnold's treason and his flight to the British, the Americans made an attempt to seize him. This undertaking was like General Funston's exploit. Sergeant Champe, of Lee's Legion, was the principal actor in the scheme. His plan was known only to the chief in command; so when he deserted to the British his late comrades fired upon him, and he reached the enemy's lines under a shower of bullets, narrowly escaping with his life. This was an excellent introduction to the British, and Champe was received with open arms. But he was unsuccessful; Arnold moved his headquarters the day on which Champe had arranged to capture him, and Champe had finally to desert from the English and return, again under fire, to our lines. When Washington wished soon after to promote him for his gallantry he found that Champe had died of disease.

The capture of the British general, Prescott, in July, 1777, was perhaps the first successful attempt of the kind. General Prescott commanded the British forces in Newport, R. I., and went for the summer to a fine house some five miles out of the city. Col. William Barton, knowing of this, decided to capture him if possible, and on July 10, 1777, with forty-one comrades, rowed across from Warwick Point, on the west shore of Narragansett bay, and reached the house undiscovered. The door of his house was burst in by a negro, who used his head as a battering ram. Prescott was asleep and awoke to find himself a prisoner. He was not allowed to dress, but in his cloak, with a captor carrying his clothes, was forced to the boat and taken within the American lines and then to Washington's headquarters in New Jersey. He was exchanged later. The successful capture of General Stoughton by Mosby and his rangers in March, 1863, was the result of a carefully made plan. Mosby, with twenty-one men, entered Fairfax Courthouse, passing themselves off as belonging to the Fifth New York Cavalry, and while some of the band attempted to capture Colonel Wyndham, the leader went to the house where the general was sound asleep. At the name of Mosby General Stoughton sat up in his wide awake in an instant. "Have you got him?" he asked. "He's got you," replied Mosby. The prisoner was taken to Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's headquarters from the very midst of a camp in which lay several thousand troops. The attempt to capture Sitting Bull was not made by strategy or Indian trick; our Indian scouts went openly to the old chief's tent, and when they tried to arrest the famous Sioux were met with bullets. They returned the fire and killed him, losing some of their own number. Funston's capture of Aguinaldo was marked by a well-devised plan, involving more danger than any other plot except Sergeant Champe's and requiring longer time and more careful work, with the same exception.

Mr. Carnegie and the Editor.

H. W. Lanier, in World's Work.

Mr. Carnegie is fond of telling how he was once asked by the editor of a popular magazine for an article on "Organization in Business."

"Well," said he, "I think I could write that article. But I'm afraid the price I'd have to ask you would be too high."

"Oh, no!" said the delighted editor, with a vision of a magnificent "feature" in an early number, "I'm sure we could arrange that satisfactorily. Name your own figure."

"Well," replied Mr. Carnegie, "I could hardly afford to do it for less than five million dollars." He smiled a little at the sight of the editor's face, and then went on: "No, I must withdraw that. What I should put into it has cost me much more than that, and, of course, you would not expect me to sell it to you at less than cost."

As the diplomatist puts it, "the negotiations fell through."

A MIRACLE OF THE TIME

WONDROUS GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY OF THE NAVY OF JAPAN,

And the Spirit of Loyalty and Patriotism That Inspires the Fighters of the Island Empire.

It seems one of the miracles of history that a nation which, fifty years ago had only junks, should, at the naval parade in honor of the late Queen Victoria, fly its flag over the largest battleship in the world. When the Empress of India died the Hatsuso, built at the Elswick works, north of Newcastle, was hardly ready for sea service. Nevertheless, the Mikado telegraphed such imperative orders to the Japanese legation in London that the big ship, of 15,200 tons displacement and named after a little stream in Japan, sailed with her own officers and crew to Portsmouth, taking prominent part in the evolutions. A thousand years ago, when our fathers were barbarians, its name was celebrated in classic poetry:

"Pure is Hatsuso's mountain brook,
So pure it mirrors all the clouds of heaven."

To the mind of the Mikado's sailors and officers Hatsuso calls up pictures of a tinkling stream, shady nooks and sheltered cottages set against a glorious background of mountains that are lovely to view and inspiring with precious associations.

This is what has built the Japanese navy and given it a soul. Here is a suggestion of the secret of Japan's power. To the foreigner, filled with the white man's conceit, that power is hid. He thinks Japan is strong because she has borrowed the inventions of the West, the forces of modern civilization. But Japan's own internal vigor is greater than any she can borrow in a material form. Her true line of progress is not in machinery, it is in internal spirit and organization. Her revolution within during the past half century—begun before Perry arrived—is more thorough than any visible external changes.

The story of the Japanese navy is like that of the Phoenix. It is a case of rising to full life out of ashes. It was for defense against her enemies that Japan in the early seventeenth century destroyed all her seaworthy vessels. Whatever afloat had a capacity of over 2,500 bushels was ordered to the flames. The ashes were blown to the winds or taken to fertilize the soil. Then foreigners were excluded and the people included, save as a storm might blow sailors into the black tide and drift them to American shores. Only one conning tower to watch the world was left at Nagasaki. For over two centuries, until the American whaling fleets came too numerously in Japanese waters, Japan slept like Thornrose. It was first the whale, then Yankees, then Perry that woke her up.

THE BEGINNING.

Within only seven years after the first American steam warship—the Mississippi—had gone round the globe the Japanese by themselves navigated a steamship across the Pacific. They began first to buy vessels of foreign model for trade and then to arm for war, for all around were earth-hungry nations. Conquered India and humbled China showed the Japanese what they might expect. Sham Christianity is doubly a thief, and the Japanese knew it. They bought first in the shipyards of the United States through the American minister, Robert H. Pruyn. This wooden fleet, secured primarily for the service of the Tycoon, was seized by Japanese students returning from Europe, who set up the very short lived "northern sea republic." The Mikado's single ironclad Stonewall, renamed the Adzuma, sent the rebel craft to the bottom and then became the nucleus for the new navy of iron and steel. In 1894 this consisted of sixteen steel, seventeen wood or composite men-of-war and twenty-six torpedo boats.

When China in defiance of treaties claimed Korea as her appanage she was resisted, as Russia will be should she claim the same thing. Though China had battleships and the Japanese had none, telegrams from Tokio ordered the Japanese war steamers to move at full steam to intercept the Chinese transports, and if necessary to fight the fleet. How the lighter cruisers floating the sun banner met the heavier battleships having the dragon flag aloft and drove them away and then again attacked and blew them up with torpedoes, utterly annihilating Chinese sea power, is known to history. It was the men, not guns, the superior spirit, not matter, that won.

Out of the small mountains of silver which the Chinese paid in indemnity at the banks in London the Japanese have bought a new fleet of battleships, as well as cruisers and gunboats. Furthermore, they now build and equip some of the best vessels of their size in the world in their own yards. Yokosuka, or Yedo bay, famous for the grave of Will Adams, the English pilot of 1612, is the birthplace of some of the prettiest and most effective of the smaller Japanese men-of-war. Yet what most surprises naval experts is to find the biggest of the world's battleships handled so easily by Japanese. Equipped with the last refinements of modern invention and technical skill, these monsters of destruction are managed by natives who are at home with their tasks, both on deck and in engine room. In a word, though Japan's ships built in Europe are great, the secret of Japanese sea power is not in the fighting machines, but in the men that work them.

LEARNING A GREAT SECRET.

Long ago the Japanese learned what sham Christianity is and how unscrupulous were the eager nations of the West. They resolved to learn the secret of the foreigner's power, and they have done it. They built their war schools, sent their bright young men abroad and made themselves sensitive on all sides to take in knowledge. This was all with one purpose—to keep their country undefiled and unconquered. They aimed to have the finest army and the best navy in the world and expected that in time they would have it.

Chagrined to find that the so-called civilized nations were blind to her real virtues, the fruit of centuries of training, Japan determined that they should be impressed by her military and naval display. If the world would not know the Japanese as a people of refinement and culture, then the world, especially the aggressive and trespassing world, should know them as soldiers. "So, let us master the last secret of the foreigner's craft, and cry 'Japan for the Japanese,'" said the Mikado and his people.

Europeans were, in this respect, not very different from the Chinese. In 1894 the Celestials thought there was only a pigmy within the armor. They called the little brown men of Japan wojen, or dwarfs. How soon were they cruelly disillusioned, for their own army and navy were quickly annihilated. So foreigners, even yet, perhaps, may think that all the Japanese strength